

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Original) A method for communicating messages using a signaling compression protocol, the method comprising:  
detecting control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages;  
decompressing the detected control messages at the communication intermediary; and  
passing user messages from the compressed stream of messages through the communication intermediary without modifications.
2. (Original) The method claim 1, wherein the control messages comprise a multiplex identifier.
3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the multiplex identifier is located at the beginning of a communication session.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein detecting control messages at a communication intermediary from a compressed stream of messages comprises detecting the multiplex identifier.
5. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein user messages are messages without the multiplex identifier.
6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the control messages are hop-by-hop messages and user messages are end-to-end messages.
7. (Currently Amended) A device **apparatus** that communicates messages using a signaling compression protocol, the device **apparatus** comprising:  
an input that receives **a compressed stream of** messages;

an output that transmits messages;

a processor that detects control messages included in the messages received by the input, wherein the processor decompresses the control messages and directs non-control messages from the compressed stream of messages to be communicated through the output without modification.

8. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein the processor detects control messages by identifying a special bytecode contained in the control messages.

9. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein the control messages are uncompressed.

10. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein the control messages are used at the beginning of a session and the processor enters a forwarding mode after the control messages are received.

11. (Currently Amended) The ~~device~~ apparatus of claim 7, wherein the modification comprises decompression.

12. (Original) A system for communicating messages using a signaling compression protocol, the system comprising:

a first communication device having a compressor and a decompressor;

a second communication device having a compressor and a decompressor; and

an intermediate relay between the first communication device and the second communication device that detects and decompresses control messages in messages communicated from the first communication device, and passes user messages through to the second communication device without decompression.

13. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay detects control messages when the intermediate relay detects an identifier located in the messages.

14. (Original) The system of claim 12, wherein the intermediate relay enters forwarding mode after control messages are received.

15. (Canceled).

16. (Previously Presented) A computer program product, embodied on a computer-readable medium, comprising:

computer code configured to:

detect control messages at a communication intermediary from a stream of messages;

decompress the detected control messages at the communication intermediary; and

communicate user messages from the stream of messages through the communication intermediary without modification.

17. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16, further comprising computer code to identify a byte code designating a control message.

18. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the byte code loads a compression algorithm into a processor.

19. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein the control messages are hop-by-hop messages.

20. (Original) The computer program product of claim 16, wherein messages comprise compressed and uncompressed messages, the control messages being uncompressed and the user messages being compressed and a transition from uncompressed to compressed is signaled using a control message.